

# Park for People with Dogs

## Master Plan Presentation



Allentown  
City without limits.



HARRY C. TREXLER TRUST

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ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

# Park for People with Dogs

## Acknowledgements

### Prepared for:

Allentown Dept. of Parks and Recreation  
Mayor Ed Pawlowski  
Allentown City Council

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Harry C. Trexler Trust

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Allentown Dog Park Steering Committee  
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# Why Are We Here?



- We love dogs!
- City response
- Discuss dog park master plan and design elements.
- Public Input
- Help raise interest & funds for project.

# What is a Dog Park?

- An area designated where:
  - People and their dogs can play and socialize together.
  - Dogs can play and exercise off-leash in a safe environment.



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**Trout Creek Park at Mack Boulevard**

# Benefits of Dogs and Dog Parks



- Pets and pet ownership adds to quality of life.
- Dogs help to **lower blood pressure, prevent heart disease, fight depression, and reduce stress.**
- Dog Parks
  - Promote responsible pet ownership.
  - Provide elderly and disabled owners an accessible place to exercise their companions.
  - Promote public health and safety.
  - Provide a tool for realistic enforcement of dog controls.



# Dog Parks Trends



- 1983 the first dog park was developed in CA.
- The city with the highest number of dog parks per 100,000 residents in 2006 was Portland, OR at 5.8 with a total of 31 dog parks.
- NYC has 47 dog parks, Philadelphia 5, and Pittsburgh 2.

# Dog Park Location Criteria



- Avoid interference with other established uses or events
- Avoid locations directly abutting residences
- Assure availability of close-by parking
- Avoid locations near children's play areas
- Avoid spillover into non-dog areas
- Avoid sensitive environmental habitats



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**Trout Creek Park at Mack Boulevard**





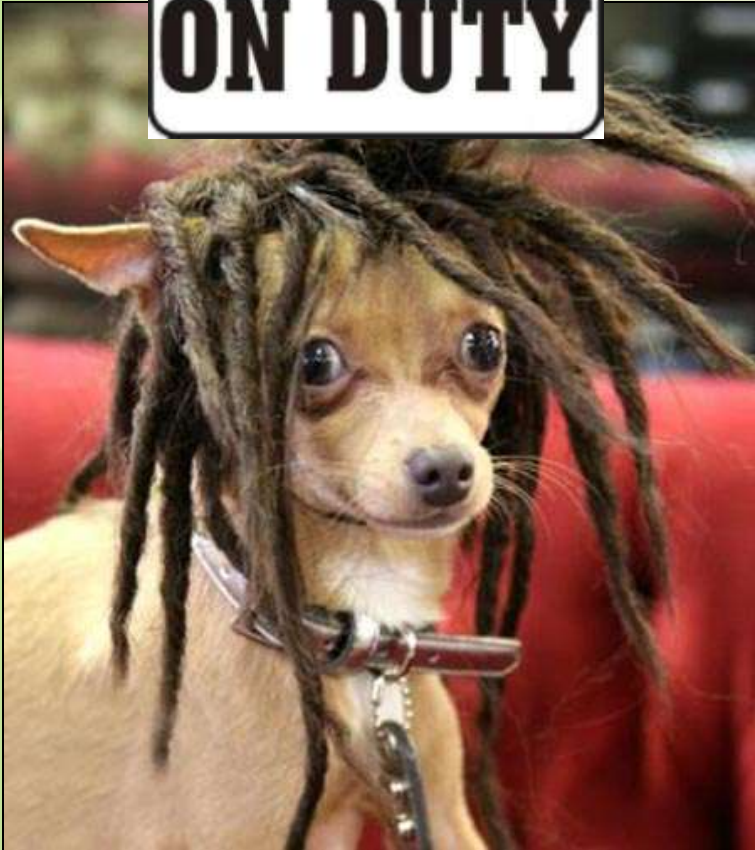
# Common Dog Park Problems



- Popularity
- Not enough parking.
- Degradation of the surfacing from overuse. Mud and dust.
- Poor drainage.
- Maintenance of pet waste.
- Area not large enough for the use.
- Lack of shade.
- Health related concerns
- Noise

# Dog Parks Deter Crime

**SECURITY**  
**DOG**  
**ON DUTY**



- In Seattle, the City's dog park program helped reclaim three parks from illegal users.
- Police worked with Dept. of Parks & Rec to determine where high volume of alcohol, drug and sexual activity was occurring.

The Trust for Public Land, 2006



# Project Overview and History

- July 2008: “Parks that Bite – Dog Park Trends and Evolving Design Solutions”
- Fall 2008: Dog Park Steering Committee (DPSC) formed
- June 2009: DPSC site tour
- Aug. 2009: Trout Creek Parkway location chosen
- Nov. 2009: Proposals accepted by DPSC for master planning
- Dec. 2009: Shortlisted firms interview with DPSC
- Dec. 2009: Langan selected as design firm by DPSC
- Feb. 2010: Langan under contract and begins master plan process
- April 2010: Langan presented first draft plan to DPSC for review and comment
- July 2010: Langan received final comments from DPSC and finalized plan/report
- Oct. 2010: Public presentation of Trout Creek Park at Mack Boulevard master plan

# Master Plan Vision

The Trout Creek Park at Mack Boulevard is envisioned to be a park for the **enjoyment** of people and dogs. The park should provide **socialization** and **recreation opportunities** for dogs and their owners in a **safe** and **secure setting** that celebrates Trout Creek and the naturalistic feel of the existing park.



# Master Plan Objectives



- Create a **top-notch park** for people with dogs.
- Create a unique recreational space that highlights Trout Creek Parkway.
- Coordinate the park's design with the surrounding park system and site neighbors.
- Create a master plan design that is **realistic and achievable**
- Incorporate design principles that address user needs, **safety and security** concerns
- Account for intensive use as much as possible
- Create a set of rules that encourage **responsible owner & dog behavior**
- Develop an effective tool for the funding, design and construction process to follow.





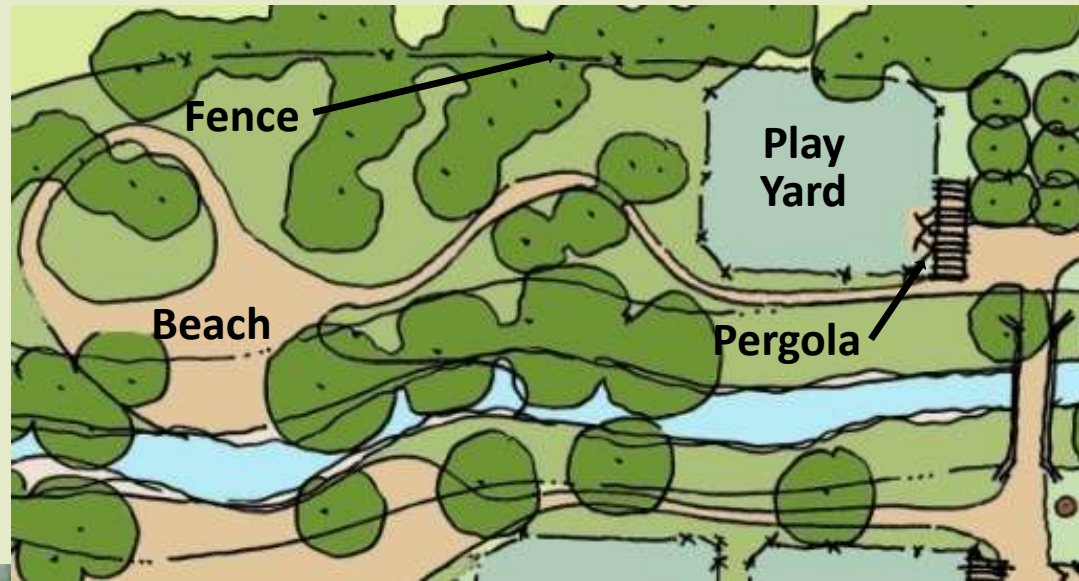
# Dog Park Design

- Size
- Location
- Layout
- Fencing
- Surfacing
- Amenities
- Signs



# Design Components

## *Fence*

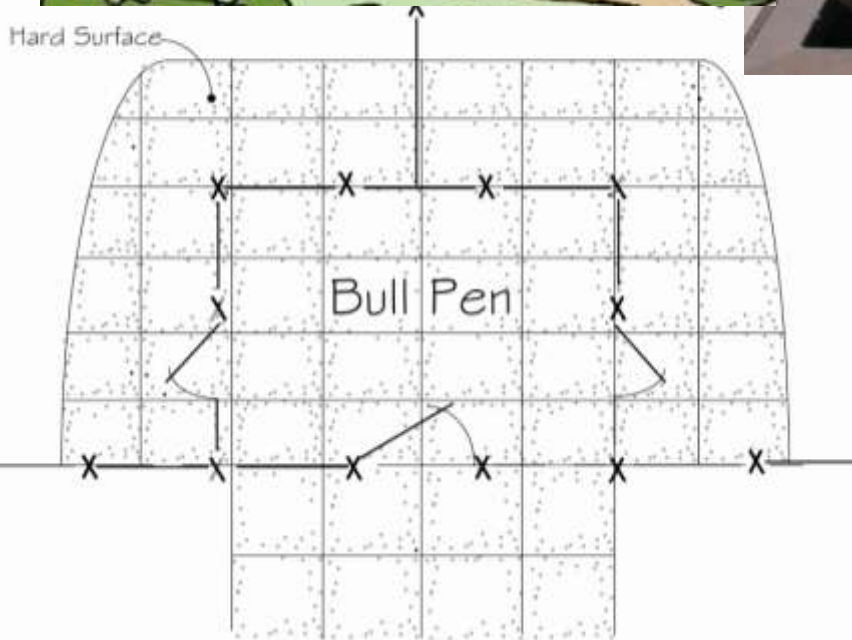
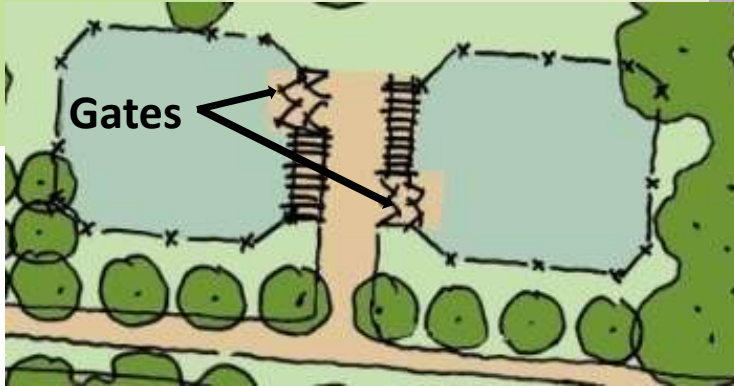


- Surrounds all play yard areas
- More substantial around entry gates
- 4' split rail with wire mesh
- Corners chamfered at 45 degrees
- May require burying of wire to limit burrowing
- Attached to bridge abutments to control streamside access



# Design Components

## *Bull Pen*



- Surrounded by sturdy fence system
- Hard aprons/ walking surfaces
- Trash and waste facilities nearby
- Shade structures

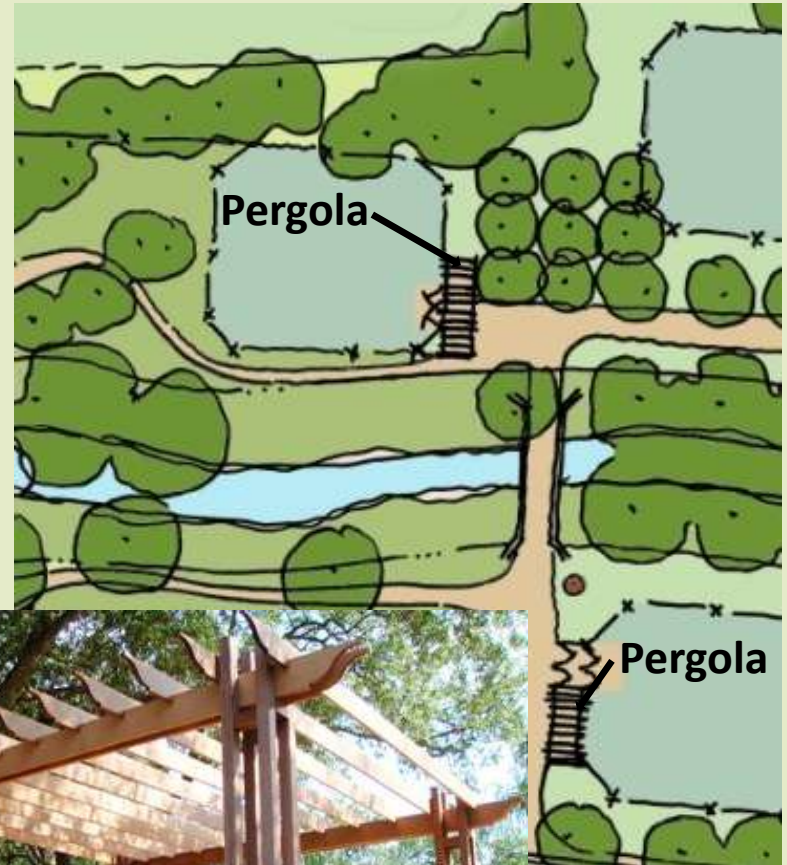


# Design Components

## *Shade Structures*



- Hard walking surfaces
- Seating only
- Water source nearby
- Traditional design details



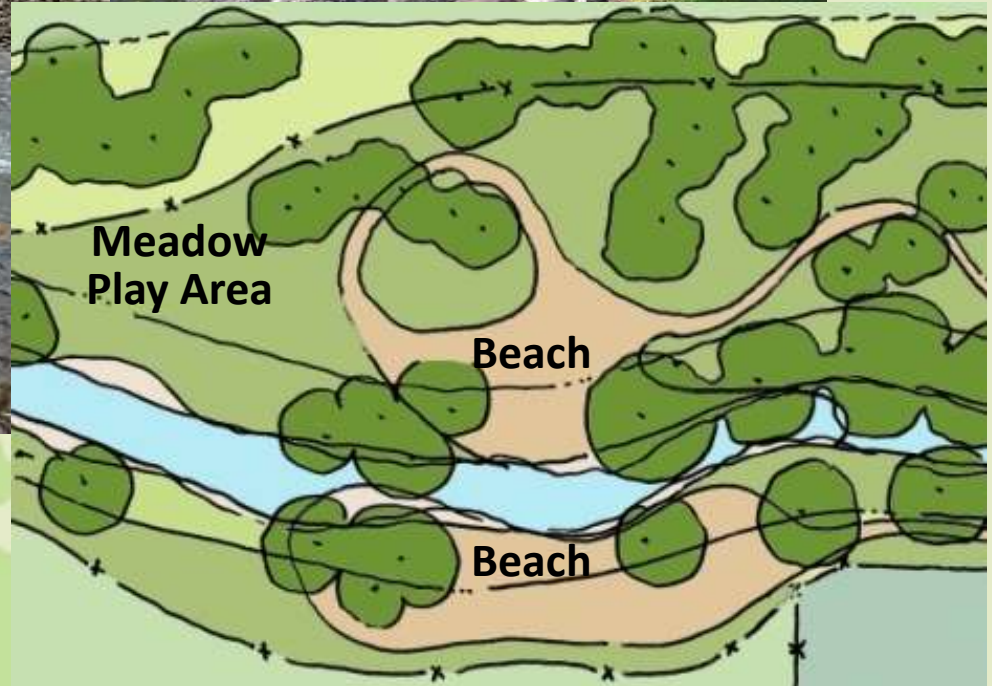


# Design Components

## *Water - Creek*



- Access from both sides of Trout Creek
- Shoreline stabilization
- Fencing at bridge buttress provides access to large portions of creek





# Design Components

## *Water - Functional*



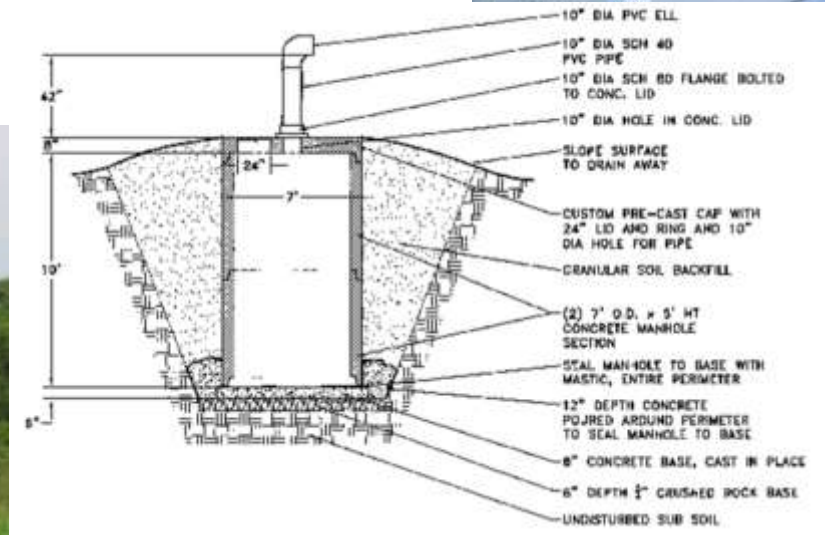
- Dog wash station provided near parking area
- Frost free water sources provided throughout
- Hard, pervious surfaces provide around all water sources
- Avoid 'free flowing' water sources



# Design Components

## *Waste Composter*

- Bio-degradable waste bag stations provided throughout
- Waste composters provided at key locations
- Waste 'periscopes' encased in more attractive skin



# Design Components

## *Activity - Traditional*



- Traditional agility type installations servicing all sizes of dogs
- Focused on rectangular play yards
- Incorporate recycled or re-purposed activities



# Design Components

## *Activity - Naturalized*



- Focused on large dog, informal area
- Natural habitats for running
- Organic activity installations
- Take advantage of existing park materials, i.e. reinforced concrete pipe and found boulders



# Signage Rules & Regulations

## Example Images

The most important park rules & regulations would be supported by visual images. Such signage provides a simple, multi-lingual method of communication several key park rules and can easily be located at multiple locations throughout the park in a simpler way.



Clean up after your dog



No food



Dog collars required



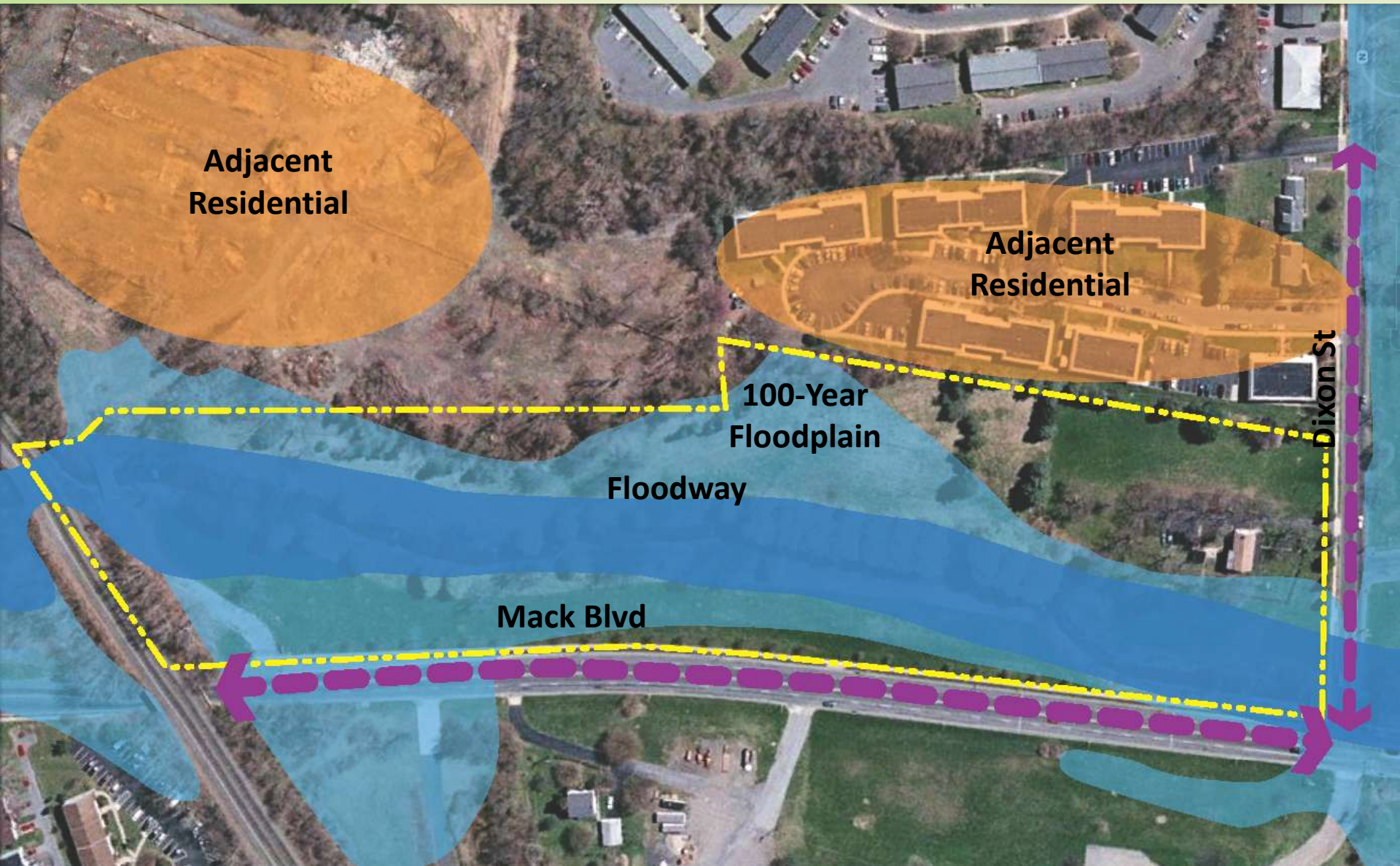
No aggressive dogs



No dog treats

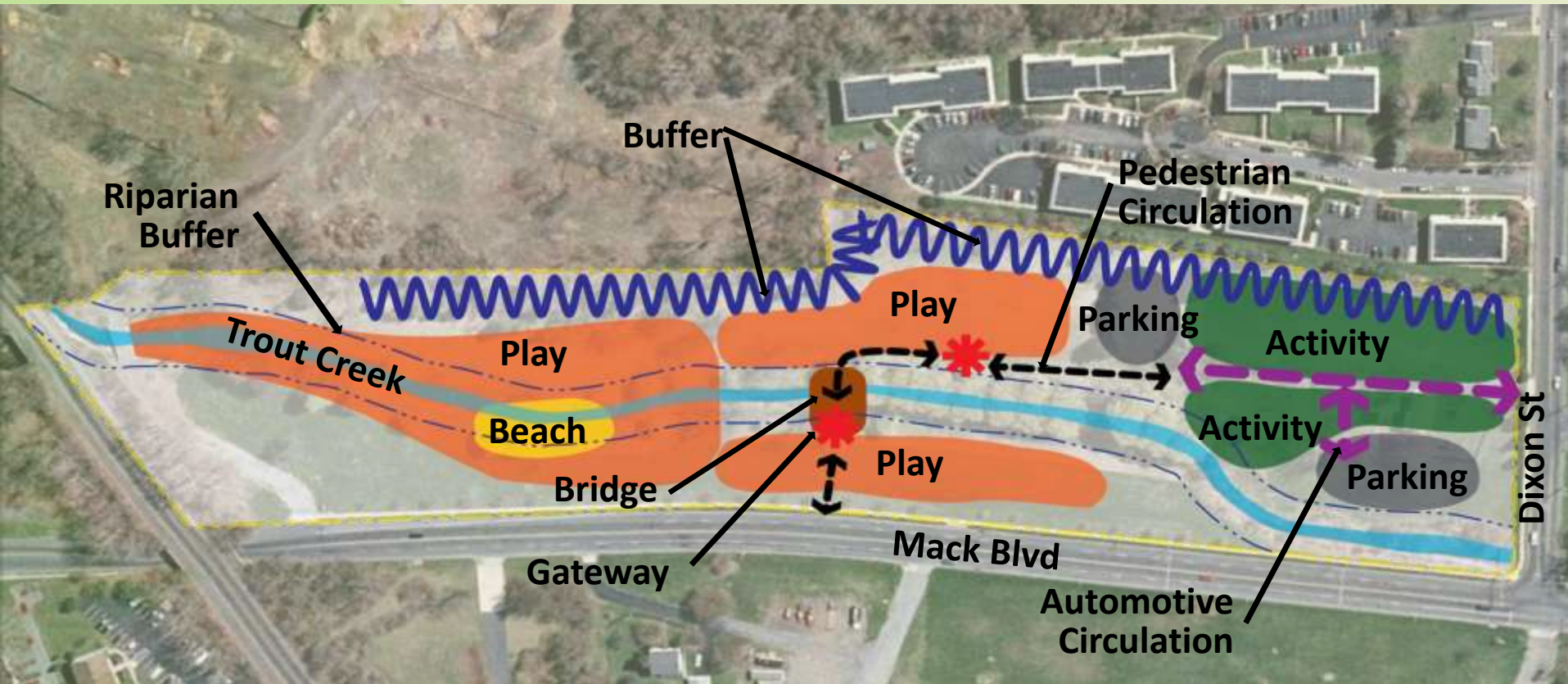


# Site Constraints





# Master Plan Concept A – Dog Farm



- Farm character fitting historic landscape
- Traditional linear fencing layout
- Concentrated parking layout
- Utilizes both sides of creek for dog activity
- Large off-leash access to creek

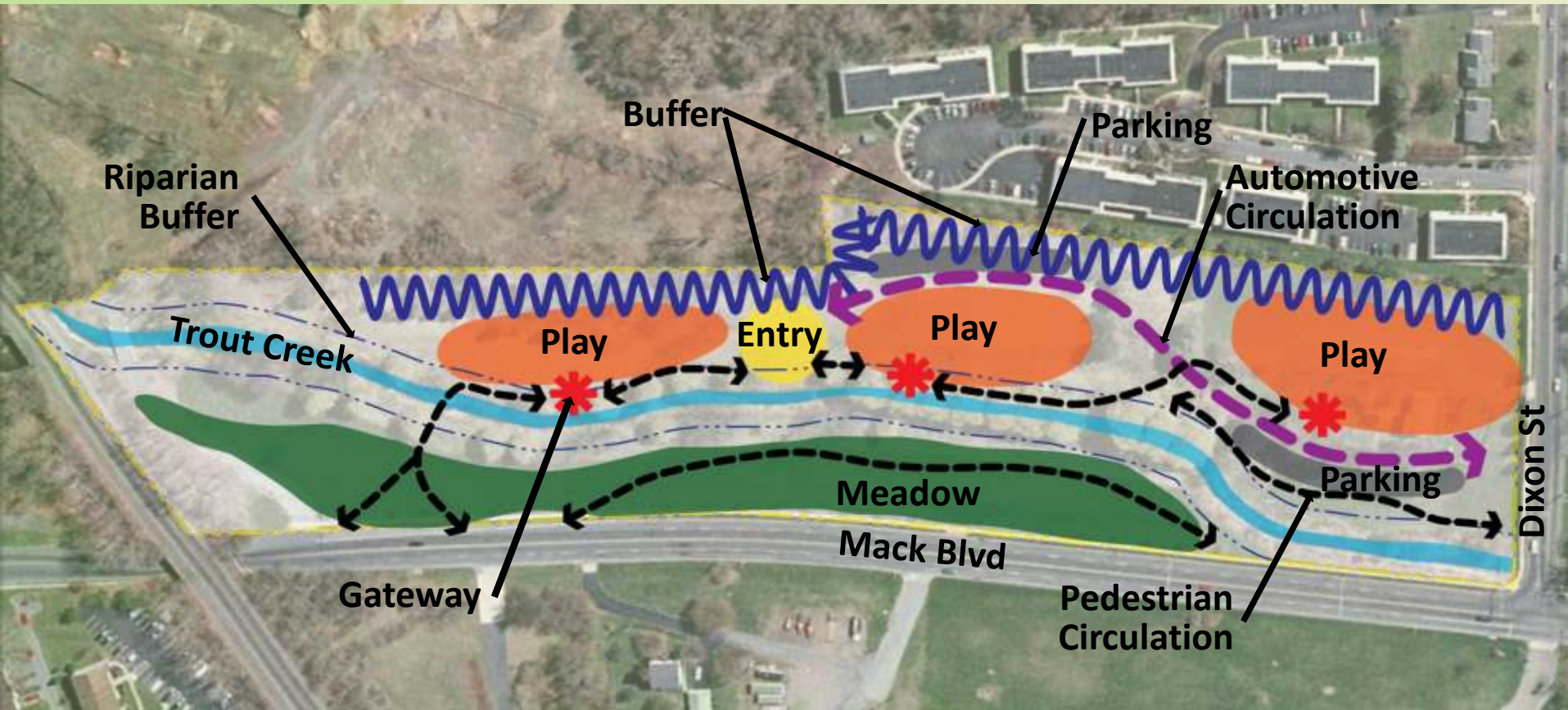


# Master Plan Concept A – Dog Farm





# Master Plan B – Dog Bowl



- Flowing character of site
- Dispersed parking layout
- Mack Boulevard side of creek retained for non-dog trail connections
- Spray park water access



# Master Plan Concept B – Dog Bowl



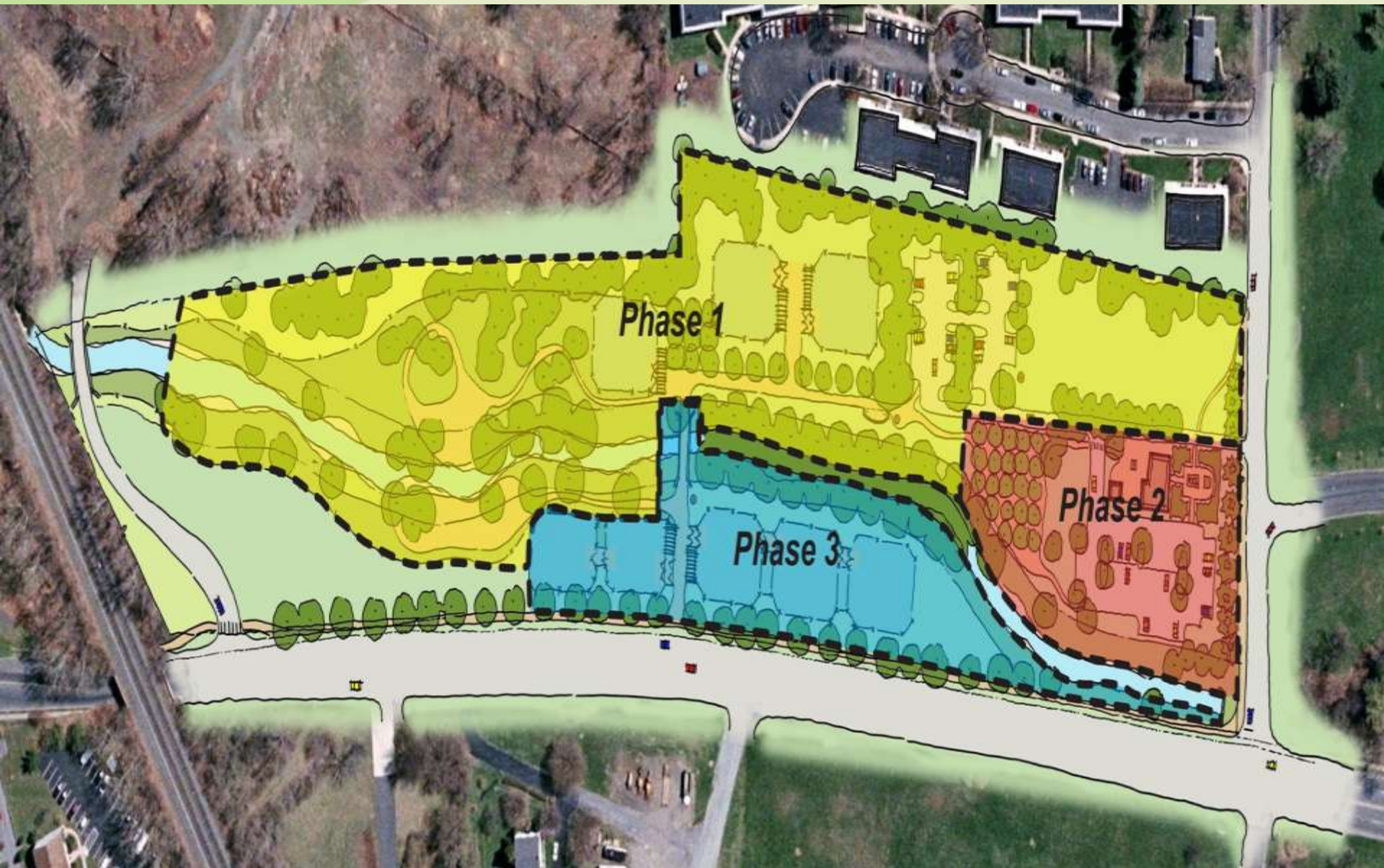


# Master Plan Concept - Final





# Master Plan Concept – Phasing Plan





# Overall Rules & Regulations



- **Owners are responsible** for their dogs and any injuries caused by them.
- All dogs must wear a collar and identification tags at all times and be **properly licensed**, inoculated, and currently healthy to be able to use the park.
- Owners must **clean up after their dogs**, including dog waste, digging or other damage caused by their dog.
- The park is intended for owners and their dogs. No other animals are permitted in the park.
- **Dogs showing aggression toward people or other dogs must be removed from the park.** Dogs who exhibit a history of aggression will not be permitted to enter the park.
- Each responsible adult may not bring more than three dependents (dogs and minors) with them into the park.

# Overall Rules & Regulations Cont.

HAVE 2010  
**DOG**  
PARK  
**TAGS?**  
GET EM! GET EM!



- Puppies must be at least four months old to use the park.
- **No food, treats, or beverages are allowed in the park.**
- Owners should not leave their dogs **unattended** or allowed out of their sight.
- Any minors brought into the park should be under constant supervision by a parent or guardian.
- Dogs in heat are not allowed in the park.
- **Owners must carry a leash for each dog at all times.** Dogs should be leashed before entering and prior to leaving the park.
- **Violators will be subject to fines, removal from the park and suspension of park privileges.**



# Cost Estimate

Phase 1	\$	383,500
Phase 2	\$	114,500
Phase 3	\$	249,000
Design Costs	\$	<u>78,000</u>
<b>Total Project</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>825,900</b>

To complete the cost estimate, the following assumptions/exclusions were made:

- All costs include labor;
- Costs for construction of restroom facilities were based on estimates provided by the City of Allentown;
- Construction of utilities or stormwater conveyance systems have not been included;
- A 15% construction contingency was incorporated;
- Design fees were estimated at 12% of construction costs, but may be larger to account for permitting issues.

# Next Steps



- ~~Establish Steering Committee~~
- ~~Define Mission~~
  - **Demonstrate Need & Support**
- ~~Choose Site~~
  - ~~Master Plan~~
- ~~Create Budget~~
- **Gain Approval**
  - **Mayor & City Council**
- **Fundraise**
- **Design and Permit**
- **Build, Manage & Maintain**



# Questions & Comments?



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September 2010